

# Indiana General Assembly News

## **LAWMAKERS PLAN JUNE 4 FUND-RAISER TO REPLACE BRIDGETON COVERED BRIDGE**

INDIANAPOLIS (May 4, 2005) – Indiana state lawmakers who represent Parke County announced today that they will sponsor a fund-raiser June 4 to generate money to replace the Bridgeton Covered Bridge, which was destroyed by a fire in late April.

State Reps. F. Dale Grubb (D-Covington), Andrew Thomas (R-Brazil), Tim Brown (R-Crawfordsville) and State Sen. Timothy Skinner (D-Terre Haute) said the event will take place at the Mill in Bridgeton, which is located next to the destroyed bridge.

The day will include a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon, a barbecue from noon to 5 p.m., and entertainment provided by State Rep. Bruce Borders (R-Jasonville), who moonlights as an Elvis impersonator.

"After hearing this devastating news, the four of us got together to see if there is anything we could do to raise funds that can rebuild the bridge, which is an important part of the history of Parke County," Grubb said. "The loss of this bridge is economically and emotionally devastating to the people of Parke County. After 137 years, it's hard to imagine how many generations grew up playing, fishing and skipping stones with this bridge as a backdrop. The county has lost a historical landmark and a beautiful part of our heritage."

Thomas added, "The loss of this landmark has touched the hearts of many, and rallied citizens to help rebuild the bridge. Part of my father's family grew up near this bridge. I would like to be a part of this effort by putting on the fund-raiser with my fellow legislators. I urge every citizen in Parke County to come and support the reconstruction of the Bridgeton Covered Bridge."

Brown noted, "I would like to extend my condolences, as I know the Bridgeton Covered Bridge was a treasured county attraction that was also a favorite place my wife and I like to visit. It is a shame we had to lose such a historical landmark. I am pleased to announce we will work hard to rebuild the bridge for the people of Parke County."

Skinner said, "It pains me to think about the Bridgeton bridge not being a part of the Parke County tradition. I have attended the Covered Bridge Festival since I was 18 years old, and it has been something my family has looked forward to since my children were born. Every year we get pumpkin ice cream and walk across the bridges to watch the river through the windows. That bridge was such a unique part of our community that I just can't understand why someone would want to destroy it. As a legislator in the area I will help in any way I can."

More details on the event will be announced as they are finalized.

**The legislators noted that donations to help rebuild the bridge can be made at any time to:**

**Old National Bank  
P.O. Box 167  
Rockville, IN 47872  
Telephone Number: 765-569-5226**